

Wednesday
DECEMBER 17, 2014

★ **FREE** ★

A Chicago Tribune
publication

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a merry 'Die
Hard' **27**

Hacking the job market

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**Chicagoans looking to reboot their careers
are taking a crack at coding
as Web developer programs gain speed**

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BY SAMANTHA NELSON FOR REDEYE | REDEYE@TRIBUNE.COM » GET MORE EAT, DRINK, DO. IDEAS AT REDEYETCHICAGO.COM



EAT

ALLAGASH BEER DINNER Dove's Luncheonette

1545 N. Damen Ave. 773-645-4060

The Wicker Park diner's first beer dinner features four courses from chef Dennis Bernard including boudin-stuffed quail and chipotle-adobo shrimp, each paired with a drink from the Maine brewery. 9 p.m. \$65

DRINK

HOLIDAY CHEERS

Deuce's and the Diamond Club

3505 N. Clark St. 773-644-5554

Order a seasonal beer such as Southern Tier Choklat imperial stout, Blue Moon Gingerbread spiced ale or Revolution Fistmas ale and the bar will donate \$1 to the Lakeview Pantry. Bring in a nonperishable food item to donate through New Year's and you'll get 10 percent off your bill. 5 p.m. No cover.

KARTS N' CRAFTS

Headquarters Beercade

2833 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-665-5660

Show off your Super Mario Kart skills for a shot at winning gift cards and other prizes at this weekly video game tournament. Drink specials include \$5 craft beer cans. 7 p.m. No cover.



GUEST BARTENDER Momotaro

820 W. Lake St.
312-733-4818

Charles Joly, former beverage director of The Aviary, mixes drinks in the restaurant's lower level Izakaya lounge and donates all of his tips to restaurant industry nonprofit Un86'd. Momotaro also provides free appetizers and donates 20 percent of the event's proceeds to the cause. 6-9 p.m. No cover.

DO

A SURVIVAL GUIDE TO THE HOLIDAYS

Uncommon Ground

1401 W. Devon St. 773-465-9801

Writers and performers share personal holiday tales as part of Pivot Arts' monthly Pop Up series. The show also features live music from local country/folk duo River Rising. 8 p.m. \$10.

REDEYE TIP OF THE DAY

River North restaurant Osteria La Madia is taking reservations for a five-course New Year's Eve dinner: dinelamadia.com



redeyechicago.com

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GOOSE

Sound Opinions

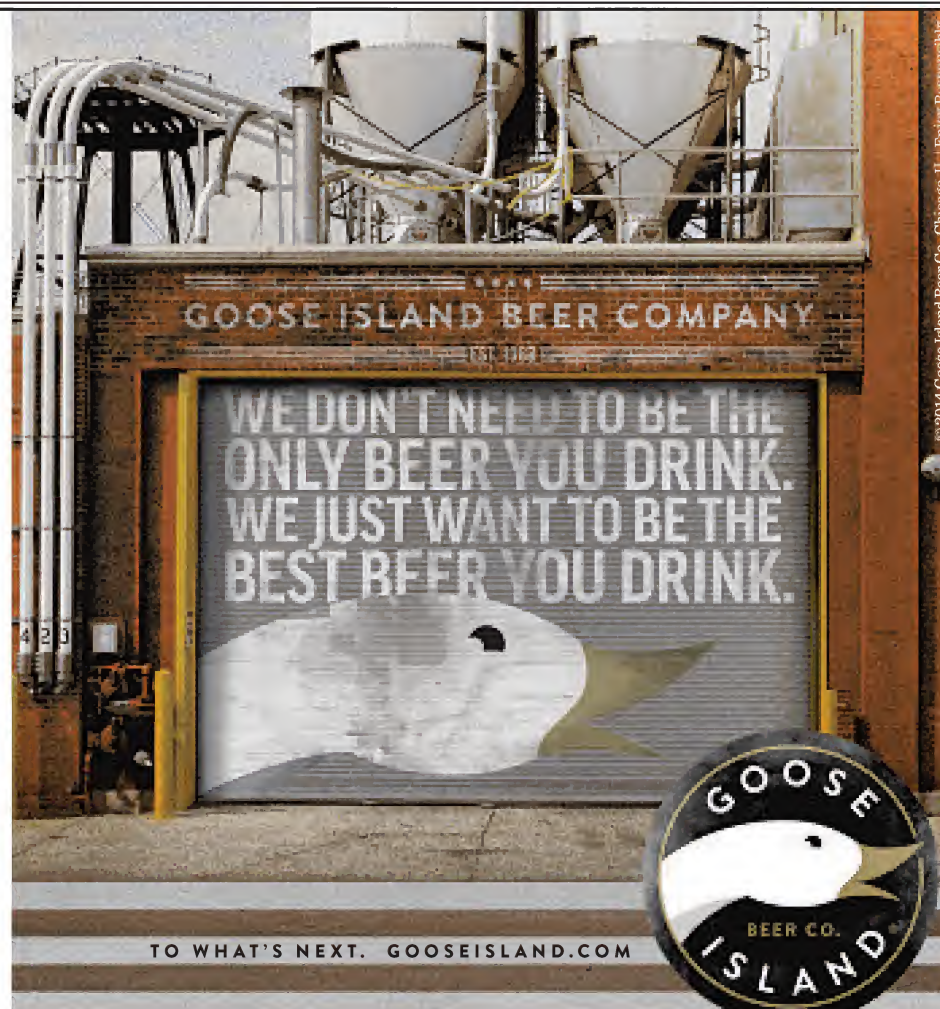
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Grab some Goose Island this weekend and have a listen to our favorite on-air chat about what's next in rock music.



Lawyers: Suspect in twin's slaying implicates others in robberies

Chicago Tribune

One of the four teens charged as adults in the armed robbery and murder of a high school student has implicated himself and the others in two armed robberies that occurred minutes before the slaying under a South Side viaduct over the weekend, Cook County prosecutors said Tuesday.

One of the suspects—Tarik Brakes, 16—allegedly pointed a handgun at the first two robbery victims, but prosecutors stopped short of identifying him as the gunman who fatally shot 15-year-old Demario Bailey when Demario and his twin brother resisted a robbery Saturday underneath the viaduct along West 63rd Street.

Judge James Brown ordered Brakes and his brother Deafro, 17, held without bond and set bail at \$2 million for Isiah Penn, 17, the suspect alleged to have implicated himself and the others in the armed robberies. A day earlier, the fourth suspect, Carlos Johnson, 17, was ordered held without bond.

The three teens, dressed in matching blue jail sweatshirts, scanned the courtroom for their families Tuesday as they approached the judge for their bond hearing. At least eight relatives stood silent at the back of the room as Assistant State's Attorney Jamie Santini detailed the allegations.

The four teens came up with a plan Friday to rob victims at gunpoint and went to the viaduct at about 12:30 p.m. Saturday armed with a loaded handgun, Santini said. None attempted to conceal their faces, he said.

Tarik Brakes pointed a handgun at the first victim, a 17-year-old, while Johnson and another suspect removed a cell phone from the victim's pocket and fled, Santini said.

Tarik Brakes and another suspect robbed a 33-year-old man shortly afterward, the prosecutor said. The robbers took the man's cell phone, money and earrings and then demanded that the man give them the password to his phone, he said.

Minutes later, the robbers accosted the Bailey brothers in the viaduct. As one of the robbers demanded, "Give it up," the Bailey brothers resisted and Demario was shot in the chest, Santini said.

Santini said detectives were able to identify the suspects from witness descriptions and footage from video cameras.



Delores Fitzpatrick hugs her son Demario Bailey at a special assembly and tribute to their slain son and brother Demario. PHIL VELASQUEZ/TRIBUNE

Family, friends honor slain teen

Chicago Tribune

First, his friends recalled the great lengths he'd go to try to make them smile when they were having a rough day.

Then his teachers and school administrators spoke of his unusual maturity for a 15-year-old and the meticulous way he wore his school uniform and tended to his flattop haircut.

But when Demario Bailey's mother rose to talk to the more than 200 sophomores at Johnson College Prep, she focused not on her slain son but more on her concern for the safety of his classmates, promising she'd drive as many as she could to the school in Englewood and to extracurricular activities.

"My baby didn't make it to the end of the tunnel," said Delores Fitzpatrick, standing

in front of the crowded but silent cafeteria. "...That's all I ask for. Get these babies back home to their mothers [because] I wouldn't wish this on nobody."

Her son was fatally shot during an attempted robbery Saturday as he walked with his twin brother, Demacio, through a viaduct along 63rd Street on their way to basketball practice at Johnson College Prep.

Bailey's friends, classmates, family and teachers gathered at the school to remember him on what would have been his 16th birthday.

"We got to be strong for him," Devon Davis, a 16-year-old junior, told the students. "They thought this would tear us apart, but it's brought us closer."

Then Davis addressed both Demario's

brother and mother.

"You lost one brother, but you have gained so many more," he said. "Ma, I promise you, [Demario] lives through me."

Several times during the approximately 75-minute ceremony, teens in the room became inconsolable with grief and had to be taken outside.

As the students sang gospel songs in Demario's honor, his mother and twin brother broke down crying. She wailed as she held her son close, the two rocking back and forth.

Fitzpatrick told the students to love each other as much as they could.

"It means so much to me that y'all loved on my babies," she said. "The ones that did this did it because nobody loved them."

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the chatter / JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Things I'll start, stop and keep up in 2015



Matt Kuttan

» redeye@tribune.com

» @mkuttan

I recently did a whole bunch of year-end employee evaluations in which I was asked to gauge what they need to stop, start and continue doing. I realized that I should apply the same principle to my fourth-annual year-end RedEye New Year Resolutions. I do realize that more than 90 percent of

these will be abandoned by Valentine's Day.

I will START:

- » Buying more Pau Gasol gear, as he truly is a boss
- » Believing there is a real ISIS, and not just the one on the TV show "Archer"
- » Start flying Malaysian Airlines again
- » Building Olaf snowmen for my kids when it finally starts coming down
- » Clearing my browser history for the benefit of my wife
- » Appreciating that Brandon Marshall is the greatest receiver the Bears have ever had
- » Demanding that all cops have body cameras
- » Tuning up my skates to check out the Maggie Daley Park
- » Recalling what Egyptians really look like, inspired by watching the disingenuous "Exodus: Gods and Kings"
- » Downloading images of that adorable Grumpy Cat
- » Getting around to watching "Game Of Thrones" and "Orange is The New Black"
- » Going back to Wrigley
- » Telling tourists to try the Tilt at the Hancock Observatory
- » Practicing tightrope walking between buildings to avoid street traffic
- » Reading Upton Sinclair's "The Jungle" on my Kindle
- » Watching what substances I partake in at Lollapalooza
- » Shaving

I will STOP:

- » Getting scared of media-frenzied fears like Ebola
- » Contemplating whether German Chancellor Angela Merkel is all freaky in the bedroom

- » Complaining about how Derrick Rose wants to pace himself
- » Screaming "You just got Tim Howard" every time I block something
- » Sampling all the lame craft beers I can get my hands on
- » Subscribing to Paper magazine
- » Having buyer's remorse and accept Jay Cutler is ours for a while and will continue throwing into double coverage
- » Breaking YouTube by watching "Gangnam Style" yet again
- » Quoting Mrs. Patmore from "Downton Abbey"
- » Watching "Homeland"
- » Being bothered by Lena Dunham
- » Taking fashion tips from the Walking Guy on Michigan Avenue
- » Taking my out-of-town guests to the "Home Alone" house in Winnetka
- » Suggesting the Obama Presidential Library and the George Lucas Museum should be a fun, joint venture in one location
- » Referring to all paperwork as TPS Reports

I will CONTINUE:

- » Taking my hot dogs without ketchup
- » Thinking Oscar Pistorius knew exactly what he was doing
- » Stocking up on German national soccer team swag
- » Being scared of getting into an elevator with Ray Rice or Solange Knowles
- » Hating on Cleveland, in spite of sorta liking Manziel, LeBron and "The Cleveland Show"
- » Rationalizing that Steve Carell's prosthetic nose in "Foxcatcher" deserves a nomination for best supporting role
- » Arguing that the "Breaking Bad" finale was cheesy
- » Groaning and shaking my fist at the Trump sign every time I walk past it
- » Fearing alley raccoons despite finding Rocket from "Guardians of the Galaxy" adorable
- » Recoiling from twerking
- » Being irritated by Taylor Swift, in spite of acknowledging that she's just a kid who is talented
- » Petitioning Coke to release a label with my given Indian name (Madhu)
- » Missing one of my favorite comedians, Robin Williams, whom I was lucky to meet last year

MATT KUTTAN IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.



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Jewel-Osco

Cracking the job code

New Web development programs tout marketable skills and job security

By Rachel Cromidas | REDEYE

A year ago, Peggy Fox was analyzing grades and other data on student performance for Chicago Public Schools in a grant-funded position that was about to expire.

Now Fox, 28, of Lincoln Square, is a month out of a 19-week computer programming “boot camp” and is building an app that helps those hopping on a Divvy bike map out rides. She’s also busy lining up interviews for entry-level coding gigs around the city.

“I wanted to be able to create things, not just analyze a piece of data and then pass it off to someone else,” she said.

With that desire and concerns about job security rolling around in her head, Fox decided to learn to code. Professional computer programmers write code in various programming languages, such as JavaScript and Ruby on Rails, to develop Web and mobile applications, software and a wide variety of digital products that are used in just about every job industry today. By learning enough about coding to become what’s known in the industry as a “full-stack” Web developer, Fox says she has now expanded her skills to be able to take on a variety of technology roles, far beyond her data analysis background.

But first Fox needed to learn the basics. Until this summer she had only dabbled in coding via the free instructional website **Codecademy.org**. That effort led Fox to Dev Bootcamp, one of a growing number of immersive technical schools geared toward preparing people, regardless of their skills or background, for jobs in the technology industry.

There are dozens of full- and part-time, for-profit and non-profit training grounds for would-be coders to learn online or in classrooms around the country. In Chicago, Dev Bootcamp is known as one of the more time-intensive programs with a 19-week course load that includes a nine-week full-time boot camp and a team of career advisers to help students connect with employers at hundreds of companies around the city. It also costs \$12,200 in tuition—comparable to a year of in-state tuition at the University of Illinois.

“The financial commitment was the biggest thing [and made me think] ‘Should I spend all of this money and do this?’” Fox said. “And the other thing was, ‘Am I going to make one more pivot in my career, and what if that doesn’t really work out?’ But I felt like the skill set would



Dev Bootcamp at 351 W. Hubbard St. on Dec. 1, 2014.

PHOTOS BY LENNY GILMORE / REDEYE

“They didn’t have prior programming knowledge, and they took the initiative to be in this program, so perhaps they’re just people who take initiative; and those are the people we want to hire.”

Molly Jones, a recruiter for the local software company Sprout Social

be useful no matter what.”

During the full-time portion of the program, students are expected to log 60-plus hours a week of lessons and practice, including coding challenges, networking events, job interview prep, and mandatory yoga—yes, mandatory yoga. The yoga classes are meant to help students relax and focus, and are part of an ethos of looking at the student holistically, not just in terms of their tech skills, said Dave Hoover, Dev Bootcamp’s Chicago-based co-founder.

Dev Bootcamp graduates a new cohort of around two dozen junior-level coders, the majority of them Millennials, every three weeks, with a job placement rate of 95 percent after six months out of the program, according to

Emily Heist Moss, the school’s marketing manager.

With the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics projecting more than one million technology jobs being created by 2020 around the United States, Hoover expects more and more people to look to such programs for help gaining a foothold in an industry that seems to promise engaging work, starting salaries in excess of \$50,000 a year and that elusive feeling of job security.

Hiring people with the right skills can be challenging for some technology companies outside of Silicon Valley, which is widely regarded as the industry’s epicenter in the U.S., according to Jonathan Bowles, executive di-

rector of the New York City-based think tank Center for an Urban Future. But technology companies in other cities are hiring, often at a faster rate than other industries.

“In a lot of cities, the tech sector is exploding, and it’s hard for a lot of companies to hire as fast as they need to,” Bowles said. “There’s a mismatch, because these companies need lots and lots of talented workers, but a lot of these cities like New York and Chicago have significant unemployment rates, people who would love to get decent tech industry jobs but lack the specific skills that are needed.”

Dubbed accelerator programs—Dev Bootcamp, General Assembly and Mobile Makers Academy, are helping “fill the void,” Bowles said.

Though the majority of these programs are based in San Francisco, Chicago’s playing field is growing. After starting in San Francisco in 2012, Dev Bootcamp expanded to Chicago last year. Mobile Makers Academy, which runs an eight-week course in mobile app development opened its headquarters in Chicago in 2012. And General Assembly, a similarly im-

mersive Web development training program with locations around the U.S., expanded to Chicago this fall. The organization began hosting short-term workshops out of the tech incubator 1871—in the Merchandise Mart—in November, and its first 12-week program will launch in March.

“Chicago was a natural next step for us,” said Anna Lindow, an operations manager at General Assembly. “We find that cities with big communities of young professionals are great for us, and that is very present in Chicago. It’s also a great place for start-ups as well as established businesses, and as people are looking for promotions or to change careers, they might end up at General Assembly.”

These programs could be a boon for Chicago’s technology scene in particular because Chicago still struggles to command the same legitimacy and name recognition as the San Francisco Bay Area or even New York City’s “Silicon Alley,” according to Michael Stanton, a partner at the venture capital firm Learn-Capital, an early investor in General Assembly.

“The career accelerator is a key piece of the ecosystem that needs to exist. For Chicago, sure, there is a small vibrant ecosystem, but it just doesn’t get much coverage,” he said.

But even with the promise of an ever-growing job market there are caveats. Steven Tadelis, a professor at the University of California Berkeley Haas School of Business, suggests that would-be programmers be wary of programs that purport to teach neophytes to code, but don’t have a stellar track-record.

“I would want to see if the schools that offer these crash courses have documented lists of who took the classes and what their jobs are, say, three to 6 months after finishing,” he said.

Another potential stumbling block could be how the need for entry-level talent leads to a greater need for senior-level programmers to manage and train them—people who are much tougher to recruit and hire.

“They are graduating so many talented and



smart and driven people, but not all development jobs are junior-level,” said Molly Jones, a recruiter for the local software company Sprout Social. “There’s an interesting balance when you’re hiring junior developers, because you need more senior and mid-level folks to support and mentor those junior level folks.”

At Sprout Social, which has hired four graduates from Dev Bootcamp since it opened shop in Chicago, Jones said lower level programmers are paired with more senior mentors to meet as teams and write code in pairs. That means she can’t always fill an open position with someone coming straight out of school.

But when she is looking for junior-level developers, Jones said she looks favorably on people coming out of the boot camp.

“They teach workshops and host meet-ups. They’re the first folks to volunteer here at Sprout when we have some kind of tech event,” she said. “They didn’t have prior programming knowledge, and they took the initiative to be in this program, so perhaps they’re just people who take initiative; and those are the people we want to hire.”

RCROMIDAS@TRIBUNE.COM | @RACHELCROMIDAS

CODE KIDS

A look at how some graduates of Dev Bootcamp, an accelerated training program focused on professional computer programming, decided to learn to code. A month since completing the 19-week, immersive program, they are on the job market.

ALEX LANG

23, Deerfield



What he did before:

College student at Illinois Wesleyan

Prior programming knowledge: An Introduction to Computer Science

college course

Why he chose to learn to code:

“I wanted to be able to do something tangible, that people would use. I had applied to a couple jobs in advertising, but without any background in marketing, I wasn’t the most desirable candidate. Chicago has a growing start-up culture, and I realized I wanted to be a part of that. But I needed some actual instruction first.”

PEGGY FOX

28, Lincoln Square



What she did before:

Data analysis for Chicago Public Schools

Prior programming knowledge: Codecademy

online tutorials and one Girl Develop It event

Why she chose to learn to code:

“I thought, even if I just get some programming fundamentals, it couldn’t hurt. It could be applicable in any job, especially with my data analysis background.”

ANDREA SIMENSTAD

24, River North



What she did before:

Moved to Chicago from Minnesota for the boot camp

Prior programming knowledge: A 10-week computer science class at Carleton College

Why she chose to learn to code:

“Since I didn’t know what I was doing next, I decided to apply. The more I started investigating the process of learning how to code, I thought, ‘I need to be in a place where there are enough resources and it’s immersive enough that I can get a jump start to contribute to this community of developers.’”

DJ DEWITT

23, East Lakeview



Prior programming experience:

Learned some coding in a previous job

What he was doing before:

Worked for a technology start-up, but in a non-tech role.

Why he decided to learn to code:

“I worked for a tech start-up over at 1871, and working in that environment, that allowed me to realize ‘OK, I love this,’ I especially love the tech environment in Chicago. It’s got this nice blend of wanting to make great things, and Midwestern values, with a level of kindness and humility there.”

WANT TO LEARN COMPUTER PROGRAMMING?

Here are some courses you can check out in Chicago:

Dev Bootcamp

Cost: \$12,200

Duration: Nine weeks of part-time prep work and nine-weeks of immersion, followed by one week of career training

Details: Teaches students how to build Web applications, including front-end and back-end Web development, and offers training in positive workplace culture
devbootcamp.com

General Assembly

Cost: \$11,500

Duration: Eight to 12 weeks, depending on the program

Details: This immersive training program’s first local 12-week development boot camp begins in March. It teaches front-end and back-end Web development.
generalassembly.chicago

Mobile Makers Academy

Cost: \$9,000

Duration: Eight weeks

Details: This immersive boot camp teaches students how to develop mobile apps. It teaches iOS development, including Objective-C and Swift.
mobilemakers.co

Code Chicago

Cost: \$2,000 per course

Duration: Ten to 12 weeks

Details: Offers a series of programming and design courses that meet about once a week for several hours
codechicago.com

The Starter League

Cost: A range; \$4,000 to learn how to build a website, \$8,000 to learn web development

Duration: 11 weeks
Details: Offers classes in the programming languages HTML, CSS, Ruby on Rails and JavaScript on a part-time basis
starterleague.com

Codecademy

Cost: Free

Duration: You decide
Details: An interactive online tutorial that offers free coding classes in several programming languages
codecademy.com

Girl Develop It

Cost: Free

Duration: One-time or multi-day events

Details: A meet-up group with chapters around the country that encourages people, particularly women, to learn to code. The group hosts events and workshops that are open to people with little-to-no coding experience.
gdichicago.com

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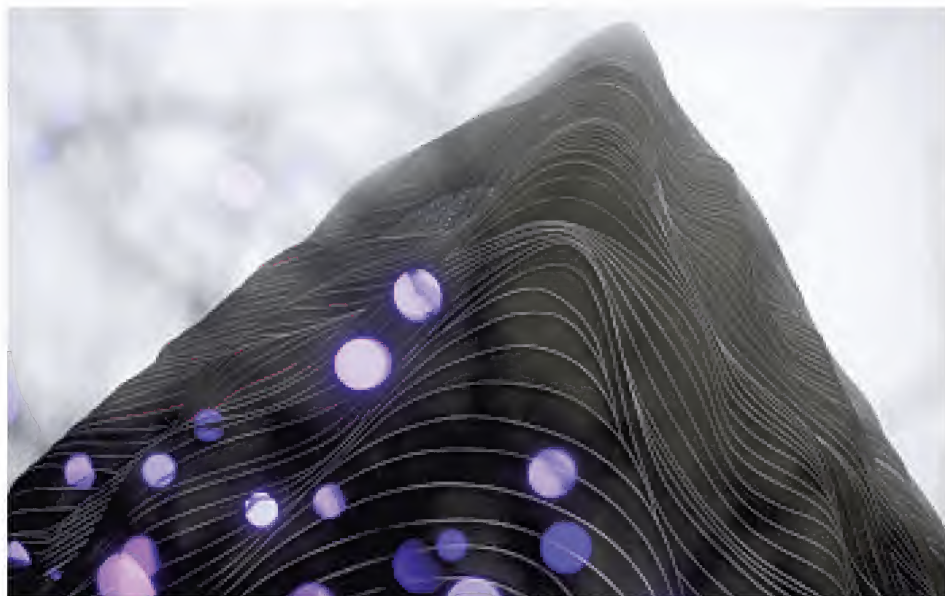
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Christmas lights highlight the Aqua condo building downtown on Tuesday. **MICHAEL TERCHA/TRIBUNE**

Cycle Center looks to expand

By **Rachel Cromidas** | REDEYE

A decade since the McDonald's Cycle Center, a bike rental, repair and parking hub, opened on the north end of Millennium Park, its operators are eying a West Loop expansion.

The center is near capacity with about 350 members, who can use the site to park their bikes, store their gear in lockers and shower before heading to work, according to general manager Ryan Lawber.

In a discussion thread Lawber opened Monday on Chainlink, a forum for Chicago-area cyclists, users suggested a second center near Union Station or the Merchandise Mart.

"We've always had plans to expand," Lawber said, "but it's also about finding the funding for it."

The \$3 million center, built out from the underground car parking garage on East Randolph Street in 2004, was given a \$5 million endowment in 2006 by the McDonald's Corp. to cover operating costs for the next 50 years. Its operating company, Bike and Park, covers some costs through \$35 monthly memberships, day fees, bike rental fees and locker room fees. It also serves as a headquarters for the Chicago Police Department's bike patrols.

Lawber is hoping to open multiple satellite locations, whether they are public facilities, like the McDonald's Center, or private, smaller outposts like the one Bike and Park opened in the John Hancock Tower in September for office commuters.

RCROMIDAS@TRIBUNE.COM | [@RACHELCROMIDAS](https://twitter.com/RACHELCROMIDAS)

\$5 THE DIGIT

The Lakeview Chamber of Commerce will be giving away 100 free Lakeview store gift cards loaded with \$5 at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Southport Brown Line stop, 3411 N. Southport Ave., and 8 a.m. Thursday at the Paulina Brown Line stop, 3410 N. Lincoln Ave. Two of the 100 cards the chamber is giving away will be loaded with \$100 instead of \$5.

EXPRESS LINES

» The Illinois Supreme Court has approved a pilot program allowing cameras in courtrooms at the Leighton Criminal Court Building beginning next month.

» CTA riders can take any CTA bus or train for free again this New Year's Eve. The free rides will be offered from 10 p.m. Dec. 31 to 4 a.m. Jan. 1. **REDEYE, TRIBUNE**



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Taliban kills at least 132 in school attack

Tuesday began like any other morning in Pakistan's Army Public School in the northwestern city of Peshawar. Students pored over their books. Teachers gave lectures.

The peace was shattered when gunmen, wearing the uniforms of security forces and some strapped with suicide vests, broke in and went from classroom to classroom shooting pupils and adults.

At least 132 Pakistanis, most of them children, were killed in the broad daylight attack on the military-run school, an assault lauded by Taliban insurgents as revenge for the killings of their own relatives by the Pakistani army.

As the gunfight between the Taliban and Pakistani forces intensified, at least three of the militants blew themselves up, resulting in several charred bodies of bombers and victims.

More than eight hours after militants slipped into the heavily guarded compound through a back entrance, the army declared the operation to flush them out over, and said that all nine insurgents had been killed.

Shahrukh Khan, 15, was shot in both legs but survived. "One of my teachers ... was shot in the hand and she was crying in pain," he said. "One terrorist then walked up to her and started shooting her until she stopped making any sound."

Rogen, Franco cancel appearances after threats

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is investigating a threat against theaters planning to show Sony Corp's film "The Interview," about an assassination of North Korea's leader, and so far it has seen no credible sign of an active plot, an agency official said. Stars Seth Rogen and James Franco have canceled upcoming media appearances following the threats, Variety confirmed.

Body of suspect in 6 killings found

The body of Bradley William Stone, the Iraq War veteran suspected of fatally shooting six family members in Pennsylvania, was discovered Tuesday following a two-day manhunt, Montgomery County District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman said, adding he died of "self-inflicted cutting wounds."

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Speak now

Time to decide who wins Chicago Sports Stud and Dud of the Year

We picked the names (with your help—thanks for that!), now you get to vote. RedEye needs your help choosing the 2014 Chicago Sports Stud and Dud of the Year. Here are the nominees. **REDEYE**

STUD



Jimmy Butler, Bulls: He plays virtually every minute of every game and just keeps getting better. Already a solid defender, he's leading the Bulls in scoring (20.9 points per game) this season.

Matt Forte, Bears: If it weren't for him and his terrific all-around play (932 rushing yards, 745 receiving yards), well, no one wants to know where they'd be without him.

Aja Evans, (right) bobsledding: The Chicagoan won a bronze medal at the Sochi Olympics. Not bad for someone who's been competing in the sport only a few years.



Chris Sale, White Sox: If he had received a little more run support, he might have won the Cy Young. He went 12-4 with a 2.17 ERA and 208 strikeouts.

Jose Abreu, (right) White Sox: What else can we say that hasn't been said about the AL Rookie of the Year? Here are his monster numbers again: .317 average, 36 home runs, 107 RBIs.

DUD

Jay Cutler, Bears: One can argue Cutler's passing yards (3,640 through 14 games) are respectable. Yet leading the NFL in turnovers (18 interceptions, six fumbles lost) are not.

Lamar Houston, Bears: He might always be known as "the guy who tore his ACL celebrating a meaningless sack." Maybe next year will bear better results.

Edwin Jackson, Cubs: He wasn't the only pitcher who had a rough year in Chicago, but he was probably the worst: 6-15 with a 6.33 ERA. He was taken out of the starting rotation ultimately. That's rough.

Bears defense: This unit could be nominated solely on the fact it gave up 106 points in two games. The rest of the season hasn't been up to its storied standards, either.

White Sox bullpen: Sox relievers were third-worst in the American League with a 4.38 ERA in 2014, and the bullpen accounted for an MLB-high 32 of the team's 89 losses. Hence all the rebuilding the Sox have done.



GETTY IMAGES FILE

Jackie Robinson West Little League team: These South Side kids always seemed to be smiling as they won the U.S. championship before falling in the international title game. What a ride.

D.J. Butler of the Jackie Robinson West team
NUCCIO DIMUZZO/TRIBUNE FILE



Allie Quigley, Sky: Yes, the team has big stars, but Quigley was terrific all season and was named WNBA Sixth Woman of the Year after averaging 11.2 points per game.

Joakim Noah, Bulls: Bulls fans have supported him for years, and in 2013-14 he got his due as NBA Defensive Player of the Year. He averaged a double-double last season (12.6 points, 11.3 rebounds) and is close to that this year (8.9, 9.6).



Duncan Keith, Hawks: The 2013-14 Norris Trophy winner shows no signs of slowing down. He's third in the NHL in ice time this season. In part because he plays on the penalty kill and the power play in addition to even strength.

YUMMY

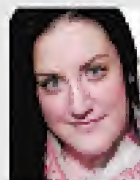
The Cubs might be on to something here. They should renovate Wrigley Field more often!



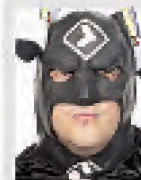
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1	Why do the Cubs keep having press conferences at restaurants?	So they can continue to eat their feelings.	What better place to have the media eat up the hype.	Bribes. The press loves free food!	As the season wears on, Cubs fans can blame their heartburn on the food.	Mmmmm, buffets...
2	Two games left for the Bears this season. Can you give fans a reason to watch?	Cutler's presence is a gift to us all.	Absolutely. #DraftStatus get in that Top 5.	NOPE.	To quote the holiday classic "A Christmas Story," Mark Trestman's job is "fra-gee-lay."	I hear Robbie Gould is going to attempt a 70-yard field goal. Because why not?
3	Why have the Blackhawks' backup goalies been so successful?	Crawford is someone everyone can get behind.	The five players in front of him are usually pretty good.	Have you seen their first-stringer?	Their mantra is play like a No. 1, don't stink like a number two.	Um, have you been to Rockford?
4	What's the hardest part of the physical for baseball free agents?	Judging their number of plate appearances.	Any ligament test. Built-in void.	Trying to find a way to pass the pee test.	Olivia Newton John saying "Let me hear your body talk." (That one was for you, older readers).	Three hours of boating.
5	What's missing from the Cubs or Sox's lineup at this point?	Thankfully, Jay Cutler.	People who can catch the ball. All bats. #NoD.	Mascots with pants.	With the White Sox, I feel like I'm on a hot date but getting stopped at second base.	For the time being, Wrigley Field.

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studs&duds / FROM NEWS SERVICES



Jackie Robinson West team members celebrate their Little League World Series second place finish before a parade in Chicago in August. **NUCCIO DINUZZO/TRIBUNE FILE**

Complaints about JRW residency dismissed

Little League International said Tuesday it has found no merit in complaints by a suburban athletic organization that Jackie Robinson West skirted residency rules in building its national championship team.

Chicago's Jackie Robinson West Little League team competed in the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pa. The All-Stars range in age from 11 to 13 and are the Little League Great Lakes Region and United States champs.

The vice president of the Evergreen Park Athletic Association, which runs the Little League team for a portion of the Southwest Suburbs, said he began expressing concerns about the authenticity of residences reported by Jackie Robinson West team members in late August, around the same time the South Side team made its way up the ranks at the international Little League games in Pennsylvania.

"The further Jackie Robinson progressed ... the less interested people seemed to be in finding out the truth about where these guys actually live," said Chris Janes, vice president of the Evergreen Park Athletic Association.

Janes said he reached out to Little League officials at the district and national levels about his concerns and "I got the impression that they weren't concerned about the truth."

The allegations were first reported Tuesday by **DNAinfo.com**.

But a spokesman for Little League International, Brian McClintock, which organizes the Little League World Series, said in an emailed statement the organization is "confident that the documentation provided to the organization from Jackie Robinson West Little League meets the residency regulations for the 2014 Little League Baseball tournament season" and the issue is considered "closed at this time."

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music

10 New Year's Eve concerts to help say goodbye to 2014 with personality



By Andy Downing | FOR REDEYE

Making plans for New Year's Eve can be a struggle. Do you stay in? Go out? Where? To take some of the sting out of the decision, here are 10 concerts you could attend to ring in 2015, based on a few important parameters.

The Orwells

Lincoln Hall (Sold out)

Why you should go: The local youngsters' riotous live shows dispel the slicker sheen that surfaced in this year's "Disgraceland."

What you're toasting with at midnight: Something cheap and canned

Masked Intruder

Beat Kitchen (\$20)

Why you should go: The masked and anonymous Wisconsin pop-punk quartet transcends the kitschy premise (the band-mates don't wear ski masks and bash through outlaw-touting cuts such as "Crime Spree") with a knack for killer hooks.

What you're toasting with: Carry on the anonymous theme by disguising your chosen beverage in a brown paper sack.



Pelican

Subterranean (\$32-\$50)

Why you should go: Chicago's long-running instru-metal crew continues to breach new sonic frontiers nearly 15 years into its career; in February the band is releasing a new EP featuring three vocal re-imaginings of its song "The Cliff."

What you're toasting with: Keep it loud and (sorta) local with something from metal-loving Indiana brewery Three Floyds.

Andrew W.K.

Thalia Hall (\$40-\$50)

Why you should go: New Year's is supposed to be a party, which is something Andrew W.K. happens to know a thing or two about (see: "Party Hard," "Party Till You Puke," etc.).

What you're toasting with: As long as you're among friends, it doesn't matter.

Mario Cuomo of The Orwells
HILARY HIGGINS FOR REDEYE

Sinkane

Schubas (\$25/\$30 at the door)

Why you should go: The Brooklyn-dwelling singer's globe-trotting background (he split his childhood between the States and his father's homeland of Sudan) surfaces in his borderless music, which incorporates strands of Afro-pop, soul, country, Tropicalia and more.

What you're toasting with: A Long Island Iced Tea includes a bit of everything, so start there.

Bob Mould

Metro (\$51/\$61 at the door)

Why you should go: Because even at 54, the former Husker Du frontman refuses to slow his roll, as evidenced by the fiery, fuzzed-out "Beauty & Ruin," which surfaced earlier this year.

What you're toasting with: Something aged and powerful, like top-shelf bourbon

Jeff the Brotherhood

Empty Bottle (\$25)

Why you should go: The Nashville sibling duo specializes in rowdy rawk tunes that come on like the soundtrack to a cramped house party, which approximates the feel of attending any packed Empty Bottle concert.

What you're toasting with: A boilermaker (a shot and a beer) in honor of the scuzzy two-piece

Zeds Dead

Aragon (\$120)

Why you should go: The Aragon Ballroom will be the site of the city's biggest, loudest New Year's party—a pulsating, dance-floor packing sweat-fest fueled by the squiggly, bass-heavy stylings of the electronic Toronto duo.

What you're toasting with: Red Bull and vodka should keep you going well into 2015.

The Muffs

Reggie's Rock Club (\$25-\$120)

Why you should go: Singer/guitarist Kim Shattuck, who was booted from the Pixies late in 2013 roughly six months after stepping in for Kim Deal, is at her fiery best on this year's "Whoop Dee Doo," the Muffs' first new album in a decade.

What you're toasting with: Flaming Dr. Pepper

Sun Ra Arkestra

Constellation (Sold out)

Why you should go: Legendary musician/cosmic pioneer Sun Ra might have died in 1993, but his spirit lives on in the form of his long-running band, whose jazzy output continues to explore the outer reaches of the galaxy.

What you're toasting with: A vaporizer

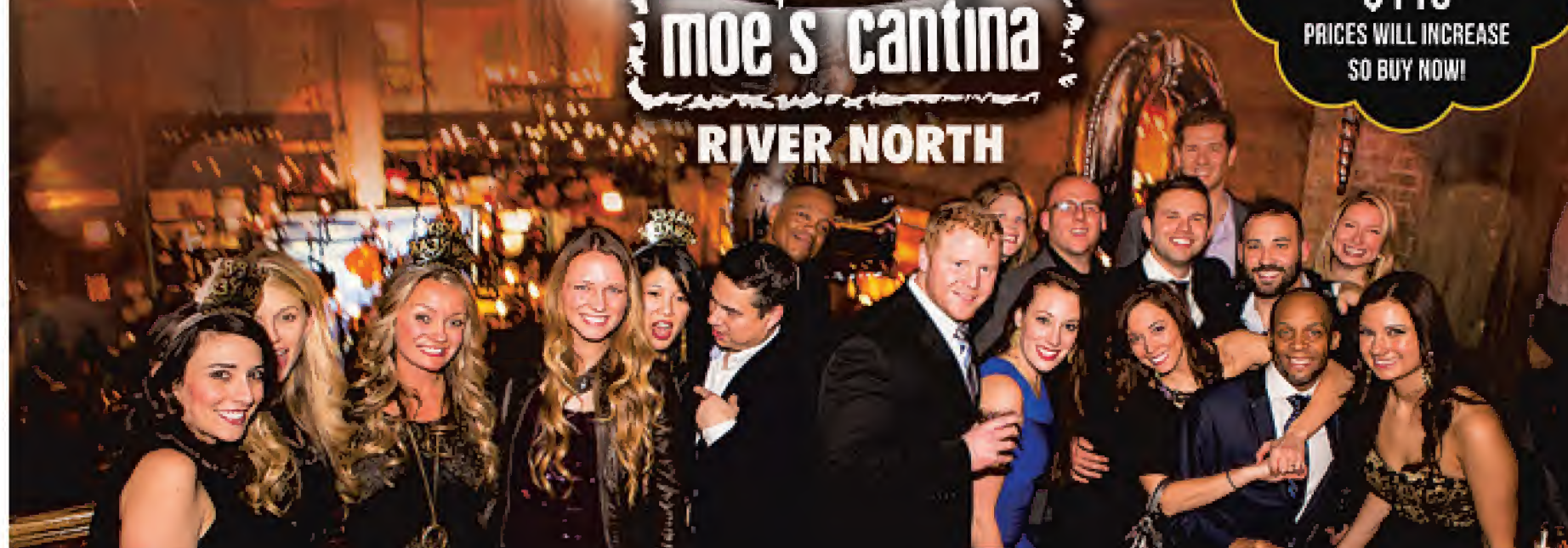
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Chief Keef
REDEYE FILE

ALBUM REVIEW

By Matt Pals

REDEYE SOUND BOARD



Nobody
Chief Keef



his material and taking ownership of his beats so they don't all blend into one.

No. Really, really no. If now-19-year-old, Englewood-raised Chief Keef (real name: Keith Cozart) had little to offer on his comparatively assertive 2012 major label debut, "Finally Rich," he has even less to say on his follow-up, delivered with about 20 times less urgency. He doesn't even provide perspective on what's happened in his own life. On "Oh Lawd," he proclaims, "Look at me now; you'll be like, 'Oh Lawd.' " If he wanted to comment

on reality, the statement would be a negative, as in, "Look at me now: I had everything, and now it's fading away." Nope: It's delivered as a half-hearted boast from an indifferent storyteller, in case we weren't already bored by the opener "Ain't Just Me," on which Keef raps, "I'm still a smoker because I hate being sober."

We know you hate being sober. You had that song, "I Hate Bein' Sober."

It just sounds pathetic on "Hard" when he claims, "I won't lie to you; I'm real as [bleep]" while sounding completely checked out and disinterested in commenting on phony declarations. On "Twelve Bars," Keef isn't sure how many cars or kids he has, which would be a sad indictment of excess if he wanted it to be, which he doesn't. At least the effectively haunted keyboards of "Yeah Now" and the heavily Auto-Tuned title track provide a change from the dull, repetitive, hi-hat-accented beats, leaving some empty space as Kanye (I think) utters on the latter song, "You really don't understand, do you?" You're right, Mr. West. I don't.

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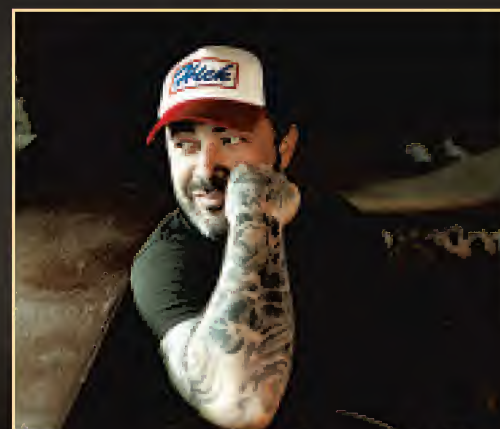
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Well folks, we finally made it. Maybe.



FAST PAISED

Matt Pais

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At last we reach the end of the beginning. It's pretty safe to assume the only people still on board with director/co-writer Peter Jackson's epic effort to stretch one short J.R.R. Tolkien novel into three movies are the die-hards. So they won't be starting "The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies" as

I do at the start of each installment: Asking myself "Who is that again?" and mentally recapping what's up with the Arkenstone and who's king at the moment and guessing how many unnamed CGI warriors will die this time. (The over-under is 2 million.)

Amid very long beards and maximum

The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies

PG-13

yelling, "Armies" opens with the continued desolation of Smaug from "The Desolation of Smaug," which means more wicked fun with an evil, big-ass dragon voiced by Benedict Cumberbatch. I won't spoil what happens to him, but keep in mind that the third part of this "Lord of the Rings" prequelilogy couldn't do much if everyone spent the whole time trying to defeat Smaug. No, most of the (allegedly) climactic chapter of "The Hobbit" features an endless series of extremely serious statements about fortune, greed and war that give way to a more endless onslaught of fight fight fight. After all, the title tells you what's in store: All-out mayhem, which results in a few new, huge/cool



Martin Freeman in 'The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies'

action sequences. Overall, a lot of the usual, excessive clanging. So take the highlights where you can, like Martin Freeman's never-stale turn as Bilbo Baggins and Lee Pace's shimmering elf leader Thranduil, who is convincingly firm in all the ways Orlando Bloom's mediocre Legolas isn't. Little moments, like the rabbits scratching themselves during a break from pulling Gandalf's (Ian McKellen) sled, are nice. I don't know why anyone trusts hid-

eous, sniveling Alfrid (Ryan Gage) when he's already proven himself unworthy, or how an Orc can call anyone else "filthy." I do know that Jackson still deserves credit for his work here as an achievement in scale, even if the final "Hobbit" film—again, allegedly—delivers a revolving door of last-minute saves and emotional hammers that blend together. Hopefully that won't happen with the upcoming quadrilogy about Aragorn's college days. Just kidding. Maybe.

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CTCHNC-REHH



Dujuan Pritchett, Alan Metoskie and Mark Rudy

'YIPPEE KI-YAY' for the holidays

By Gwendolyn Purdom | REDEYE

When most people think Christmas, they think Bruce Willis and an office complex swarming with German terrorists. OK, maybe not most people. But when MCL Chicago managing director Michael Shepherd Jordan asked his fellow improvisers for suggestions for a holiday musical parody, that's what jumped to performer Alex Richmond's mind immediately. "‘Die Hard’ was the first thing I thought of," Richmond said. "We always watch action movies in my family and ... it is a great holiday film." The idea evolved into "Yippee Ki-Yay, Merry Christmas: A Die Hard Christmas Musical," an original spin on the 1988 hostage flick now playing at MCL's Lakeview space (formerly Studio Be). In keeping with the production's seasonal spirit, RedEye gathered 12 tidbits about the show from cast and crewmembers—unfortunately, a young Alan Rickman in a pear tree didn't make the list.

1) CHRISTMAS-IER THAN YOU REMEMBER

Before writing the script, Shepherd Jordan, who's also the director, carefully rewatched the movie—about a New York cop (Bruce Willis) who goes to his estranged wife's holiday office party in L.A. and unwittingly becomes the group's only hope when a pack of German criminals takes the company hostage—and realized the film included more Christmas elements than he remembered. There are 12 terrorists. Holiday music plays throughout. Even Willis' character's wife's name is Holly.

2) MORE SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS THAN YOU REMEMBER

The other major takeaway Shepherd Jordan and music director Stephanie McCullough Vlcek found was an overwhelming—and very 1980s—theme pitting the blue collar heroes against the villainous greed and excess of the white-collar characters, commentary Shepherd Jordan and McCullough Vlcek played up in their script. "We were sitting here like, 'Wow, 'Die Hard,' very socially aware,'" Shepherd Jordan said.

3) BAD GUY STYLE

Criminal mastermind Hans Gruber (played by Rickman in the movie and Mark Rudy in

'YIPPEE KI-YAY, MERRY CHRISTMAS: A DIE HARD CHRISTMAS MUSICAL'

Go: 7:30 p.m. Saturdays through Jan. 10 at MCL Chicago, 3110 N. Sheffield Ave. Special late-night holiday performance at 10 p.m. Dec. 27.

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MCL's production), perhaps strays the furthest from the film version, Shepherd Jordan said, as a few references to the character's fashion sense and slick charm are amplified. "Now Hans is the epitome of that person you don't want to meet. That heterosexual white male that is fashion- and money-obsessed," Rudy said. "It's a fun line to walk between having people hate you and at the same time be simultaneously mesmerized."

4) GET IT?

References to other nostalgic pop culture are sprinkled throughout the show. Hans Gruber becomes Hans Solo. Al the cop, played by "Family Matters" dad Reginald VelJohnson in the film, gets his "Family Matters" character's name, Carl Winslow.

5) ACTION UNPACKED

"The hardest part of doing this whole thing was trying to figure out what action sequences we could turn into a stage version," Shepherd Jordan said, "because while that movie is like an hour and a half long or something like that, 35 minutes of it is Bruce Willis running around getting shot at and things blowing up in the background." As a result, the new script follows the general plotline, but cuts down on the pyrotechnics.

6) TOTALLY '80S

With 11 original songs, the musical sticks with an '80s sound—from video game soundtrack-style music to pop and punk.

7) LINES BEGGING TO BE SONGS

Shepherd Jordan says he and his team fit in traditional musical numbers like a love song, but he was also inspired by some of the film's more famous lines, like "Shoot the glass!" "The way Alan Rickman delivers that stupid line is so perfect that it was like, 'Well, that's a song,'" Shepherd Jordan said.

8) STUCK IN TIME

There's no modern update turning the movie's clunky walkie-talkies into iPhones. The action stays in the '80s.

9) PREVIOUSLY, ON 'DIE HARD' ...

Never seen the original or can't remember all the explosive details? A 20-minute preshow montage of crucial clips, music and the movie's original trailer plays in the theater while patrons are taking their seats.

10) LIGHT IT UP

For the explosions and gunfire left in the script, sound and light cues—and the audience members' imaginations—are essential. "Our tech guy is up there pushing lots of buttons throughout the whole show," Shepherd Jordan said.

11) SORRY, NO SEQUELS

"Die Hard 2" gets a brief mention, but references to the rest of the series will have to wait for another parody.


12) 'GOONIES: THE CHRISTMAS MUSICAL'?

So what other '80s and '90s action movies deserve the Christmas musical treatment? Cast and crewmembers' wish list included the rest of the "Die Hard" films, "Lethal Weapon," "Predator," "The Terminator" and kids' classic "The Goonies." "It's not your typical action film, but there's action," MCL artistic director Alex Garday said. "It's an adventure story."

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games



WILL YOU BE MONSTER OR MAN?

‘Evolve’ adds fresh spin to classic game theme

By Ryan Smith | FOR REDEYE

“Evolve” puts a new King Kong-sized twist on the familiar man-versus-monster trope in video games.

Instead of simply suiting up as a space marine on the hunt for a bloodthirsty alien, Turtle Rock Studios’ upcoming action game—launching Feb. 10 for consoles and PC—encourages players to join both sides of the battle. Up to four people are cast as Hunters dispatched to eliminate a threat to a human colony while one player jumps into the hideous skin of an oversized beast bent on destruction. That massive creature shooting lightning at you? It could very well be one of your online friends.

Taking on a team of four as one big badass monster is what separates “Evolve” from the rest of the pack, according to Chris Ashton, Turtle Rock Studios’ co-creator and design director.

“It’s kind of the 13-year-old in us fantasiz-

ing about what kind of game we’d like to play,” Ashton said. “You know ... that experience of being a monster and climbing over rocks and throwing boulders and breathing fire and all that kind of stuff.”

Not that playing as a human in “Evolve” is a snoozefest. During an extended hands-on demo last week, I nearly broke into a nervous sweat while taking up virtual arms as a hunter. Each member of the team fills a specific and necessary role. The assault class, for instance, gets the glory of firing powerful guns at the monster, while the medic heals the injured. The trapper uses tools such as harpoon guns and force fields to prevent the alien from fleeing to safety in the jungle, where it can eat small animals for extra health. The default “hunt” mode is spent doggedly chasing the creature by following an alien bloodhound who can sniff out its scent. Once you track it down, it’s kill or be killed. It’s a tense experience that takes a canny combination of coordination with your teammates and a steady trigger finger.

Still, the main attraction of “Evolve” is

the opportunity to play as one of the three monsters—each resembling alternative takes on H.R. Giger’s frightening creatures from the “Alien” movie franchise. The Kraken, for example, is all tentacles and blade-like claws brandished to unleash all sorts of nasty energy attacks. If it feeds on enough prey, it can “evolve” into more advanced forms, making it even tougher to take down. And unlike when playing as a human, there is no such thing as teamwork.

“You’re the big boss when you’re the monster; nobody’s there to help you,” Ashton said.

Critics worry that balancing the four-versus-one online combat will prove to be the game’s downfall, especially since some monsters and hunters work better than others, but the developer says it has worked hard over the past four years to ensure both sides have a fighting chance at winning.

So far, there’s plenty of evidence that “Evolve” represents a brave new world in action games.

RYAN SMITH IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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ACROSS

1 "You _ what you eat"
4 Burn with a hot liquid
9 Make a tiny cut
13 Balkan native
15 Mischievous sprite
16 Jailbird's quarters
17 Long story
18 Cooking chambers
19 Vigorous
20 Dolphins' cousins
22 _ long way to
Tipperary...
23 Small brook
24 Golfer Ernie _
26 Concurs
29 Shaking
34 Tows
35 Wooden box
36 Hit a tennis ball in a high arc
37 Recedes
38 Camel features
39 City in Texas
40 Brewed drink
41 Tiny skin openings
42 _ pie; dessert made with nuts
43 Abandoned
45 "TV Guide" or "People"
46 One of the Seven Dwarfs
47 Couldn't float
48 Shine
51 Building designer
56 _ Scotia
57 14 _ gold
58 Hammerer's target
60 Drug addict
61 Wear away
62 Show boldness
63 _ in the Clowns"
64 Tailor or seamstress
65 Butterfly catcher's need

DOWN

1 Beast of burden
2 Gather crops
3 Therefore
4 Thread holders
5 Not rude
6 Chopping tools
7 Queue
8 Mousse & cake
9 Religious split
10 Orderly
11 Misfortunes
12 "Guilty" or "Not guilty"
14 Trash cans
21 Cutie-_; sweethearts
25 General Robert E. _
26 Leading, so far
27 Actor Clark _
28 Hicks
29 Carrying a gun
30 Military funeral bugle song
31 Color of half the checkers
32 From the neighborhood
33 Very dark wood
35 Remedy
38 Flapjacks
39 Friday follower
41 Expert
42 _ up; confined
44 Actor _ G. Robinson
45 Café employee
47 Sun blocker
48 Wildebeests
49 Suffer defeat
50 Kiln
52 Seldom seen
53 Brag
54 James or Scott
55 Grow weary
59 Allow

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1944: The U.S. Army announced it was ending its policy of excluding Japanese-Americans from the West Coast.

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red hot

The bride wore white

Google released a whole mess of Year in Search data this week, including the annual most-searched celebrities (Jennifer Lawrence topped that chart). But some of our favorite data came in the weddings department. Though some of these came as a surprise, we don't think you'll be at all shocked by the first-place finishers.

1. Kim Kardashian and Kanye West
2. George Clooney and Amal Alamuddin
3. Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt
4. Jill Duggar and Derick Dillard
5. Kandi Burruss and Todd Tucker
6. Lauren Conrad and William Tell
7. Adam Levine and Behati Prinsloo
8. Jessica Simpson and Eric Johnson
9. Solange Knowles and Alan Ferguson
10. Kaley Cuoco and Ryan Sweeting

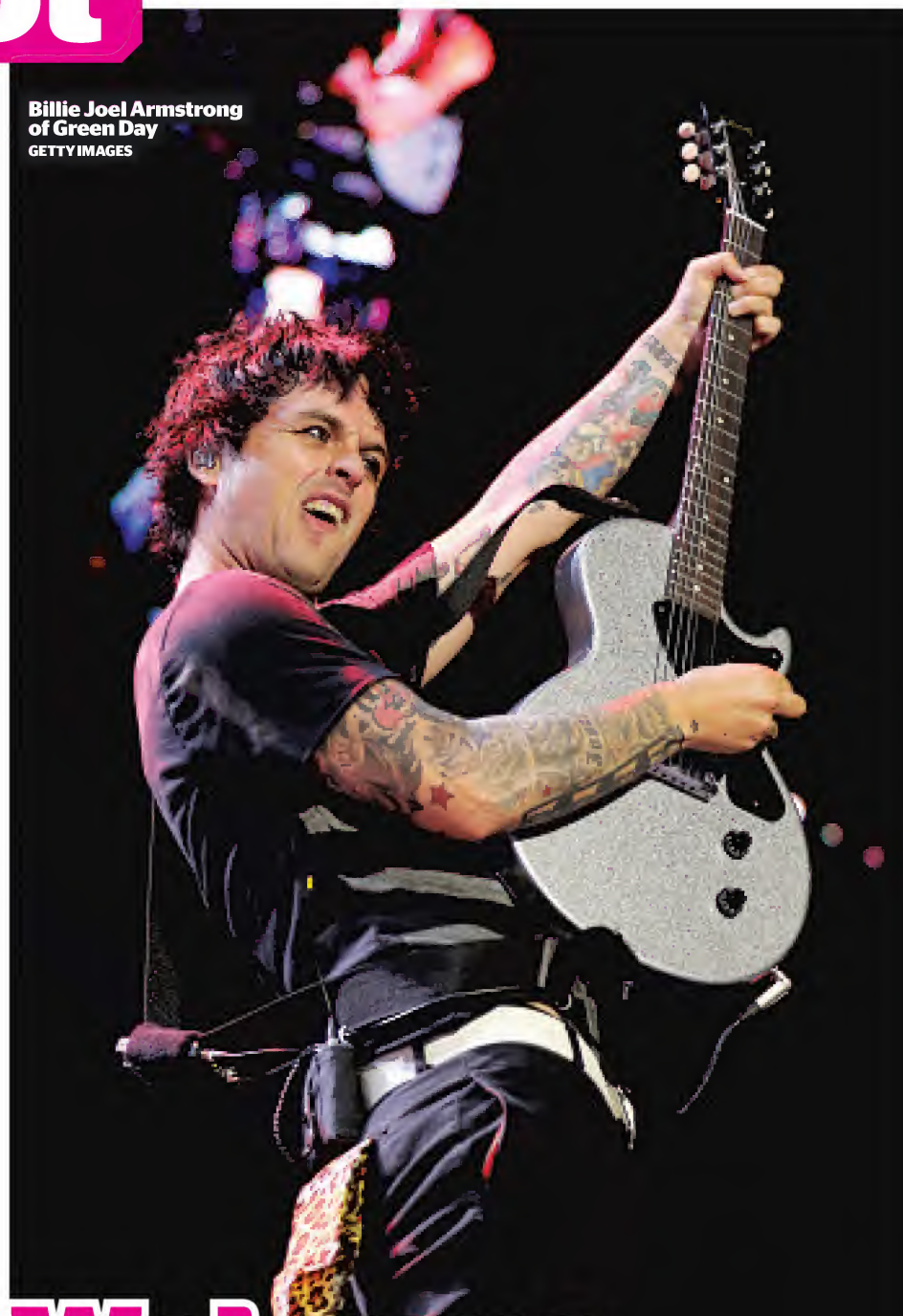


Jennifer Aniston
GETTY IMAGES

“THE QUOTE You may not have a child come out of your vagina, but that doesn't mean you aren't mothering—dogs, friends, friends' children.”

—Jennifer Aniston, to Allure, on the unfair pressure on women to have a child

Billie Joel Armstrong
of Green Day
GETTY IMAGES



Welcome to paradise

And by paradise, we mean the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame! Green Day has become the 48th act to be inducted in their first year of eligibility, thr.com reports. Joining them in the 2015 class will be Lou Reed, Joan Jett and the Blackhearts, Bill Withers and Stevie Ray Vaughan. Want to catch the ceremony in person? The whole thing goes down April 18 at Cleveland's Public Hall.



Iggy Azalea
GETTY IMAGES

HOT DATE MAY 1

That's when Iggy Azalea will bring her The Great Escape Tour to Allstate Arena, she tweeted Monday. Nick Jonas and his abs will be joining as her opener, but Tinashe and DJ Wizz Kid will be joining her for some stops on the 24-date tour. Cross your fingers that we're one of them!

“THE QUOTE I watched 'America's Next Top Model' and listened to Tyra's posing advice. Seriously.”

—New Calvin Klein model **Myla Dalbesio**, to Yahoo style, on how she improved her modeling skills. You've heard of Myla because she's a size 8 or 10, which means she falls in between the sample-size and plus-size model categories. This also means there's a decent chance you could actually share pants with her!

Work out with Rihanna

While it sometimes seems like stage performance and partying are Rihanna's two favorite forms of exercise, the fashion icon has caught a certain sportswear brand's attention. Women's Wear Daily reports the singer has been named creative director of Puma, and is set to oversee its womenswear line. Naturally, she'll also be doing some modeling. Early note to Ri-Ri: Just because it's named Puma doesn't mean you need to incorporate fur.



Rihanna
REUTERS

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